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October 2011

Early Grades

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Upcoming Trainings

- **Montana Early Childhood Conference**, October 14-15, 2011, Bozeman, \$65 - \$125. *Montana: Creating a State of Well-Being* is the theme for this annual conference sponsored by the Montana Association for the Education of Young Children. Find more information and register at:
<http://www.mtaeyc.org/>.
- **Montana Crime Prevention Conference: Connecting People, Connecting Communities**, October 18-21, 2011, Butte, FREE- This conference includes the following topics: Community Response to Domestic Violence Training; Environmental Strategies for Combating Underage Drinking; A Paradigm Shift: Drinking and Driving in Montana; Cannabis: Read the Fine Print; Suicide Awareness and Prevention; Motivating and Strengthening Communities through Education, Collaboration and Enforcement; and more! For more information, register at the Montana Board of Crime Control:
http://mbcc.mt.gov/News&Events/Conferences_Training/CrimePrev/2011/CrimePrevConf.asp.
- **MEA-MFT Educators' Conference**, October 20-21, 2011, Missoula, cost varies. This conference "brings top-quality professional education to Montana's teachers." Find more information at:
http://www.mea-mft.org/educators_conference.aspx.

Tips and Tools to Share with Parents

- **Spot the Clues** This Web site features McGruff the Crime Dog and provides information for parents about possible warning signs that a child is being bullied. The Web site also includes advice for parents and adults about dealing with bullying, as well as online games and stories about bullying. Find these resources from the National Crime Prevention Council at:
<http://www.ncpc.org/newsroom/current-campaigns/bully-prevention/spot-the-clues>.
- **Inside Your Preschooler's Brain** This Web site offers helpful tips on promoting children's brain development and understanding how

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behavior is linked to the stages of brain development. Sections include: activate their minds, be gentle, chatter time, social graces, let's focus, categorize the world, digest this, body building, rare TV, and more resources. From Great Schools at:

<http://www.greatschools.org/parenting/behavior-discipline/slideshows/4379-brain-preschool.gs?print=true&fromPage=1>.

- **Incorporating Literacy into Children's Activities** **Hate going to the grocery store with your children? Make it into a learning adventure!** The Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) provides mini-posters and online "CELLpops" for parents of preschoolers. The most recent editions are: *Grocery Shopping*, *Local Library Visits*, *Neighborhood Walk*, and *Outdoor Fun*, all of which give families fun and easy ways to include literacy and learning in everyday activities. Find them at:
http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/ta_cell_pop1.php.
- **My Next Steps: A Parent's Guide to Understanding Autism** "A first-time diagnosis of autism in a child can be an overwhelming and stressful time for parents and families. This guide serves as a roadmap for parents dealing with this challenging period and seeks to provide answers to the many questions that arise during the journey from autism diagnosis to treatment." View or download the chapters at:
<http://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/resources/autism-resource-dvd.html>.

Notable Web Sites for Early Childhood Professionals

- **Early Learning Matters** A great video "ad" for early childhood education from the First Five Years Fund can be found at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8U96Q_x3qE&feature=youtu.be.
- **New Teacher Module from CONNECT** This new module on dialogic reading practices from the Center to Mobilize Early Childhood Knowledge includes videos, handouts and problem-solving activities. The module can help teachers engage children in reading and promote language and literacy skill development. Find the module at:
<http://community.fpg.unc.edu/connect-modules/learners/module-6>.

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- **Engaging Culturally Diverse Families** This short article notes the importance of conveying empathy in order to be successful in engaging culturally diverse clients. Find the tips from this older article at: <http://web.archive.org/web/20070321210742/www.perspectivesonpractice.org/article1.htm>.
- **Supporting Young Children in Combat-Injured Families: Call to Action** This free article from Zero to Three "provide[s] an overview of how combat injuries and their recovery and rehabilitation have an impact on family life and on young children and provide[s] strategies for support and intervention." Find it at: http://main.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/31-1_Arata-Mairs.pdf?docID=12401.

Teacher and Family Resources

Connecting Emergent Curriculum and Standards in the Early Childhood Classroom, Sydney L. Schwartz and Sherry M. Copeland, 2010. 194 pp., \$26.95 paper. ISBN 978-0-8077-5109-1. Teachers College Press; www.tcpres.com

"In an age of standards-based accountability, how does one teach content in the pre-K and kindergarten classroom?" Authors Sydney Schwartz and Sherry Copeland tackle this question by furnishing the reader with content ideas and strategies that can engage young learners in a hands-on, standards-based learning environment.

Fostering Success in School Mathematics

As a service to parents of school-age children, Illuminations is pleased to offer one of NCTM's signature publications, [A Family's Guide: Fostering Your Child's Success in School Mathematics](http://illuminations.nctm.org/NCTMResources.aspx), as a **free, fully downloadable** PDF document. <http://illuminations.nctm.org/NCTMResources.aspx>

Learning on the Go:

Active Fun

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Sometimes it seems as though the easiest way to keep kids occupied is to turn on the TV. But children log a staggering 28-32 hours every day in front of some sort of screen. With obesity on the rise in the early years, children need to be more active. Here are a couple of ideas to promote active fun at your house:

- Make a tub of active toys that are age appropriate for your child's age that they can access at any time. It could include balls of all varieties, Frisbees, hula hoops, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, paintbrushes (for painting with water), etc.
- Teach your children outdoor activities, such as hide and seek, obstacle courses, hopscotch, leap frog and follow the leader.
- Plan a scavenger hunt by making a list of things for your children to find outside: a rock, twig, clover leaf, pine cone, etc. For the littlest ones, you can draw pictures. You can also hide a few small treasures as well, such as marbles, old keys, or polished rocks.

Your children will have so much fun they won't even miss the TV. And there is one more reason to give your children lots of opportunities to be active – it helps their brains!

Library-Information Literacy

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New FREE Online Resources For K-12 Schools – EBSCOHost And HomeworkMT.org

How to Access the Resources

Each school has a unique login to the Montana State Library Directory (<http://montanalibrarydirectory.org>). The directory is a portal to all of the digital resources that are provided through contracts with the Montana State Library and funded by the 2011 Montana Legislature. Please use the "HELP, I forgot my password" link in the directory Edit Path to request your new login. Remember that login information can only be sent via FAX or US mail. An information sheet is

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posted on the Montana Teacher-Librarian wiki to guide users through the MSL Directory to database access information.

http://www.opi.mt.gov/groups/mtl/wiki/66ba0/Database_Training.html

Training for the EBSCOHost and HomeworkMT will be available through webinars and on-site workshops over the course of the next year. Visit http://msl.mt.gov/For_Librarians/Statewide_Projects/default.asp for more information these great FREE resources.

Peer Coaching

Peer-Ed, creators of Microsoft Peer Coaching, is offering two workshops this fall. Consider joining one or both! First up is the all-online workshop *Build Effective Online Learning*, which runs from Oct. 13th to Nov. 16th. More information on this session can be found at <http://peer-ed.com/services.aspx>. Next is the Peer Coaching Facilitator Training, face-to-face, Nov. 7-10 (with additional online activities) in Phoenix, Arizona. More information can be found at <http://peer-ed.com/faciltrain.aspx>. Contact Les Foltos or Matt Huston of Peer-Ed via e-mail at pcinfo@peer-ed.com for questions about peer coaching.

Communication and Collaboration

SLMD Listserv – please e-mail Colet Bartow (cbartow@mt.gov) if you would like to be added to this highly informative listserv. You can also visit the Montana Teacher-Librarian wiki (<http://www.opi.mt.gov/groups/mtl>) for more information and resources useful to Montana schools. Check out new resources for assessment, automation and facilities.

Mathematics

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LEADERSHIP IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION: NETWORK- COMMUNICATE-SUPPORT-MOTIVATE (NCSM) RESOURCES

<http://www.mathedleadership.org/index.html>



Two projects of particular interest:

1. "Coaches and Specialists Corner" is a Web page with resources specifically designed to support mathematics specialists and coaches, and those who support specialists and coaches.
2. Illustrating the Standards for Mathematical practice is designed to create materials to understand the mathematical practices and instruction that supports students' development of proficiency in these practices.

<http://insidemathematics.org/>

SECOND MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS OVERVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Beginning **Tuesday, October 11**, visit the OPI [Common Core State Standards](#) Web page; see Current News to register for the December training. Registration for the December training will close Friday, November 18, 2011.

The professional development will be held December 1-2, 2011, at the Red Lion, Helena, Montana. The overview and implementation sessions will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2011. The optional training session will be 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2, 2011. A block of rooms under OPI Accreditation are being held at the Red Lion until October 31, 2011. Please call to make your reservation at 1 (800) 733-5466, e-mail colonialsales@redlion.com ,or, go to their Web site at www.redLion.com .

Lunch will be provided for this event as well as reimbursement for a substitute teacher. OPI Renewal units are also available.

The purpose of this Montana Common Core Standards Professional Development is threefold:

1. Thursday a.m. General Session
 - Overview of common core standards development, content and assessment
2. Thursday a.m., p.m. Breakout Sessions
 - a. Mathematical Practices and Progressions
 - b. English Language Arts, Text Complexity and Literacy
 - c. District/School curriculum alignment process
3. Friday a.m., p.m. Optional Session
 - Prepare to be a local/regional facilitator

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SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS CAMP at the **MONTANA LEARNING CENTER** July 29 - Aug. 2, 2012 For incoming Gr. 6 - 10 students (Sept. 2012) to:

- Explore project ideas;
- Get started in pursuing a project in depth; and
- Learn about science fair opportunities and procedures.

Instructors: Deb Wines (Billings Catholic HS); Andy Valkenburg (Senior Analyst, Energy Labs - Helena, Billings); Don Hurd (physicist/mathematician - Helena)

Other Camps:

Camp Discovery (Gr. K - 3): July 23-26; July 30-Aug. 2

Young Naturalist Adventures (Gr. 4 - 6): July 22-26; July 29-Aug. 2

Innovations in Math and Science (Gr. 7 - 9): July 22 - 27

The Montana Learning Center is located at Canyon Ferry, Montana

CALLING STUDENTS WHO WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD

We Can Change the World Challenge recently kicked off its 2012 edition. Students team up with classmates under teacher/mentors to solve environmental problems in their school (grades K-5), community (grades 6-8), and world (grades 9-12). Now entering its fourth year, the challenge is a collaborative effort of the Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), and the College Board. Students at all grade levels use scientific investigation and Web-based curriculum tools, powered by Discovery Education, to create a replicable green solution.

To join this educational initiative toward improving the planet's outlook, teachers and mentors can register for the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, add their student teams and begin formulating their projects at www.wecanchange.com. Student and teacher/mentor prizes, which vary according to grade level and value more than \$250,000 total, include scholarships, savings bonds, school grants, adventure trips and a chance to present their idea at the United Nations.

LEADING MATH EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS FORM COMMON CORE COALITION

Seven organizations have recently announced the formation of the Mathematics Common Core Coalition to provide expertise and advice on issues related to effective implementation and assessment of the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSSM). The members of the coalition are the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM), the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE),

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the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics (ASSM), the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), and the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

The CCSSM Web site, www.mathccc.org, will include materials and links to information and resources that the organizations of the coalition are providing to the public and the education community about CCSSM.

Win Sum-Thing! Contest from NCTM Illuminations

Win a classroom set of A+ Tiles simply by trying your hand at an Illuminations lesson. In the lesson Do You Notice Sum-Thing?, students are asked to consider patterns that occur when various tiles are placed on a hundreds board. For a chance to win a full classroom set of the tiles or an individual set of A+ Tiles, try the lesson with some students and then do one of the following: Submit a picture (or link to a gallery of photos) of students participating in the lesson. Share a link of student work from the lesson. Post a link to a video of students participating in the lesson. Submit a write-up of things your students discovered during the lesson. Create an extension for the lesson. Share your picture, video link, or write-up on our Facebook page, "NCTM Illuminations." The link or photo that receives the most "likes" by 5pm ET on Thursday, October 6, will receive a classroom set of hundreds boards provided by A+ Compass. Additionally, ten other randomly selected entries will win an individual set of A+ Tiles. Entries should be uploaded to our Facebook page, NCTM Illuminations. Or, you can submit to Christa Koskosky, ckoskosky@nctm.org, who will post any emailed entries to the Facebook page.

MONTANA COMMON CORE STANDARDS: GETTING Every Student College and Career READY

[Getting Ready](#), a Website with information and resources for transition to the proposed Montana Common Core Standards and The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium.

Getting Ready Introduction

Webinar: [Getting Ready for Transitions to the Proposed Common Core Standards and Assessments Intro](#)



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PowerPoint: [Getting Ready for Transitions to the Proposed Common Core Standards and Assessments Intro](#)

Fact Sheet: [Getting Ready for Transitions to the Proposed Common Core Standards and Assessments](#)

FAQs: [Getting Ready for Transitions to the Proposed Common Core Standards and Assessments](#)

Science

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The Conceptual Framework for the New Science Education Standards is Finally Released!

Many of you saw the draft version of the Conceptual Framework last summer. Now, after going through an extensive editing process, this incredible document is finished and available to download for free. If you aren't familiar with it, *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*, was developed by a committee of experts in education and science who were appointed by the National Research Council. The framework identifies the key scientific practices, concepts and ideas that all students should learn by the time they complete high school. It is intended as a guide for those who develop science education standards, those who design curricula and assessments, and others who work in K-12 science education. More information about the development of the document can be found at the [National Academies](#) site. To download the framework for free, visit the [National Academies Press](#) site. This document will also serve as a foundational document for the writing of the *Next Generation Science Standard*. If your district is interested in professional development on the framework and how it can be used, please contact Kristen Crawford at kcrawford@mt.gov.

Conservation Educational Grants Available

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) offers grants up to \$500 to fund conservation and restoration activities for K-12 students and adults.

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To be considered for a grant, a school teacher or program manager must **submit a written application directly to the local conservation district**, and, depending on the conservation district requirements, an individual may be required to attend a meeting to explain the project. If the conservation district agrees to sponsor the grant application, it will be forwarded to the DNRC. For the remainder of 2011 there is no submission deadline. Effective in 2012, grant deadlines will be quarterly.

An online directory of [Montana Conservation Districts](#) will help your organization locate the conservation district office in your area. If you have questions, contact [Linda Brander](#), (406) 444-0520.

[PPL](#)'s \$1,500 grants are geared toward projects that enhance established classroom curricula, academic standards, or support extracurricular activities. Funds can be used to pay for transportation costs, substitute teachers, materials, planning time for educators, to name a few. An invitation to submit an application will open November 15, 2011, and the closing date for the grant to be received will be January 31, 2012.

If you have questions contact [Lisa Perry](#), (406) 237-6914.

Science Strands at MEA-MFT Conference

If you're planning to be in Missoula for the MEA-MFT Conference, please join me at one of my science sessions:

- **What Are These Science ELEs Everyone's Talking About? (Grades K-12)**

This session will help participants discover the Essential Learning Expectations for Science and how they are useful instructionally. While the ELEs have been in existence for over two years now many teachers are unaware of them. Additional resources such as units of study and performance rubrics will also be shared.

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2:00 PM - 2:50 p.m.

Room number: SHS 118 at Sentinel High School

- **Engaging Learners Through Science Manipulatives (Grades K-12)**

Teachers will learn how to create a variety of science manipulatives and stations that they can use to teach the Montana standards in an engaging and inexpensive way. Participants will be given a disk with templates for all of the materials at the end of the session.

Session Presented Twice

Friday October 21, 2011

12:00 PM - 12:50 p.m.

Room number: SHS 118

Friday October 21, 2011

3:00 PM - 3:50 p.m.

Room number: SHS 118